Managing Tamarisk and Russian Olive in Riparian Areas  
John Leary, RiversEdge West

- Rivers in desert southwest are essential to wildlife and human populations.
- Tamarisk, RO, and other invasive are a major threat to the services that rivers provide (wildfire, recreation access, grazing access, habitat loss, aquatic habitat reduction, water consumption, river channelization)
- Restoration of tamarisk and Russian olive infestations should be targeted, prioritized, and have goals (increase habitat, increase access, improve grazing, restore channel, etc)
- Things to consider for restoration planning: Cost, site goals, monitoring, retreatment, revegetation, jurisdictional boundaries...

Questions/comments:

- Are there any studies on the water use of native v. nonnative species? If willow comes in place of willows, is that a gain or not?
- Parcels around Rangely to manage for wildfire and tamarisk. Prescribed fire might be a tool to manage tamarisk, seeing success.
- Fire is a real risk and concern in riparian areas to habitat and assets
- How long does it take for the salt content of the soil to decrease after tamarisk removal?
- It would be helpful to walk us through the process. The actual restoration steps to reduce invasives and establish natives.
- Huge array of approaches to release of beetle, restoration, cultural on the Green River
  - Mortality of small tree planted
  - Momentum of interest to steward these areas
- Beetle questions.
- White River Alliance
- What did you see the range/footprint of the partnership?
- Town is looking to diversify economically
  - Concern of trespassing with increase of river use
  - Town of Rangely - Concerned of how little public access to the river is
  - RBWCD – Looking at overall watershed health, aquatic species management plan,
    - Drought Contingency plan with TRO

**Restoration Partnerships** Rusty Lloyd, RiversEdge West

- RiversEdge West started as Tamarisk Coalition in 1999.
- Works throughout southwest (AZ, NM, CA, CO, UT) in implementation, fundraising, partnership coordination, technical support
- Restoration partnerships help to accomplish restoration goals
- REW has worked with CO partners in the past and is currently working on the White River restoration in Utah
- Working across jurisdictional boundaries and outside of silos we can accomplish more
- Leverage funding
- Landscape scale approach to restoration
- Share knowledge, resources, expertise, and lessons learned

**WRFO Projects on White River:** Mary Taylor, Riparian Coordinator, BLM White River Field Office

- Manages 2.5 million acres of land in NW Colo.
- White river intersects BLM land 12 miles along the White River
- Talking over the Olive Garden and Big Trujillo (15 acres and 75 acres large)
- Work was done in partnership with Tamarisk Coalition (RiversEdge West) and Colorado Parks and Wildlife -Wetland Grant
- Revegetation happened from UCPMC materials and Labor from Stan Young. Important to test soils before planting (high salinity on White River)
- Increased public use from restoration on the Big Trujillo site
- Looking for continued maintenance of these sites
- BLM possibly looking at restoration on East, West and Main Douglas Creek
  - Potential for watershed scale habitat restoration
  - Use of BDA’s
  - WRP possibly to facilitate treatment
- Start at Meeker and work your way down for restoration.
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in NW Colorado - Improving Wildlife Habitats on Privately Owned Lands: Bob Timberman, USFWS

- Funding opportunity to do restoration on private lands
- Streamlined and accessible funding been in existence for over 30 years.
- Block grants and as the funding is available
- Looking for projects that have a high likelihood for good wildlife habitat.
- Municipal lands are not eligible, only private lands
- Handout provides information on what types of projects could be accomplished.
- Larger projects are a coalition- people and organizations collaborate on these projects.
- Contact Bob Timberman if you have a potential project (970-846-5139; bob_timberman@fws.gov)

White River Partnership John Leary, RiversEdge West

- Role of partnership coordinator-facilitate discussions/meetings, keep partnership moving forward
- Ensure the partnership meets needs of partners, the community, and the river
- Discussion of proposed watershed partnership boundaries (lower? Upper? Until the dam?)
- Involving community members and land managers
- Support a holistic approach to restoration that meets ecological goals and also social, cultural, management, and economic goals of the region and the stakeholders

Cattleman land trust

- CCALT helps with Funding for easement or funding for lands already in easement. Lands in easement are often good candidates for restoration focused grants

Colorado Water Conservation Board

- Has funding opportunities via water plan and Watershed restoration grant program

Other comments:

- Invasive objects in the river
- Concerted effort to coalesce all the studies on the White River
- Next steps
  - Assemble a few more partners and procure funding
  - How do we get funding for Conservation Corps to get work done?
    - Recruit local youth in interested in employment
- Possible River Festival
  - Outdoor rec aspects and values of the river
  - First weekend of June, River Festival with RBWCD already does this.
- Might be worthwhile approaching local boards, councils
- Start to pursue funding
- Landowner outreach – Working with the CD’s, RBWCD, 4H, FFA
Private landowner outreach is important of possible weed issues
What is the temperament of the Feds to do treatments and be sustainable?
Evening meeting possibly to get more board members and private land owners.

Next steps:

- White River Partnership Vernal Meeting 11/21/19
- Community Networking Event Rangely 1/27/2020 (John)
- REW Restoration Conference Feb 4-6 in Grand Junction, special session for private landowners on Thursday, Feb 6
- John will reach out about future WRP meetings. In the meantime, he can be reached at jleary@riversedgewest.org or 970-256-7400